

Torrance, California
February 25, 1947

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, February 25, 1947 at 8:07 p.m.

Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Councilman Tolson moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held February 11, 1947 be approved as written. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Mr. Ernie Gore, 24454 Neece Avenue, WALTERIA, requesting a refund of \$20.00 for the unused portion of his vending machine license which he wishes to surrender.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this request be granted and the refund made. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Law Offices of Burke, Marshall & Burke, 458 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, with reference to the denial of the Petition for a rehearing filed in the action of William J. B. Hughes versus the City of Torrance. They stated that if the City of Torrance desires to sell as a unit its transportation system it must comply with the requirements of Stats. 1921, Page 89 (Deerings Act 5203). Enclosed with the letter was a statement of services rendered in the amount of \$1184.70.

Councilman Tolson moved that the payment of this bill be authorized by the Council. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Powell. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Torrance Area Youth Bands, Inc., Box 548, requesting information regarding the charge for use of the Civic Auditorium for its first anniversary concert on Thursday, April 10, 1947, for which they will charge an admittance fee of twenty-five cents for school children and fifty cents for adults, the purpose of which is to raise funds for the purchase of a sousaphone for the band.

Councilman Tolson moved that Mr. Van Dyck, Director, be notified of the charges recently adopted by the Council, and asked to comply with the rules governing the use of the Auditorium. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mrs. Lupe Molinar, 2307 Border Avenue, requesting a license to sell cooked food from her home with permission to pay half of the year's fee every six months, as she is unable to pay the full amount.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this communication be referred to the entire City Council for further study. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Otto B. Willett, City Attorney, and W. H. Stanger, Water Superintendent, recommending that the Council proceed with the present plans for construction of Municipal Water District No. 1 in WALTERIA, due to the fact that such a district will

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invite growth and development. The letter stated that the City is obligated to receive the materials for which it received bids and awarded contracts and that almost all of the materials have been received and put in storage already; therefore, it would be more costly and more time would be lost than it would be worth to cancel the proceedings until the election is held to provide for the joining of the beach cities to the Metropolitan Water District; and the possibility of their locating a feeder line to the coast through WALTERIA is very doubtful, anyway.

Councilman Tolson moved that the recommendations of the City Attorney and the Water Superintendent be concurred in. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Robert J. Milliken, Supervisor of the Special Census in Torrance, advising that the preliminary count of the returns of the Census, taken as of February 7, 1947, is 13,000, as compared with 9,950 on April 1, 1940. This represents an increase of approximately 31 per cent.

Engineer Jain informed the Council that the 31 per cent increase in population is average for the cities having had a census taken. He stated that the \$1400.00 which the City appropriated for the Census will, in all probability, be reimbursed by gasoline taxes during the first quarter of the year. The City should allocate around \$6,000.00 a year from State gas tax alone, and possibly \$3,000.00 from the County, he advised.

Councilman Powell moved that Mr. Milliken's communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Bennett Black, who does the work of maintaining the Police Radio System, requesting an increase in salary from \$12.50 to \$15.00 per week.

Chief Stroh advised the Council that Mr. Black, recently returned from the service, has requested this increase due to the fact that there are now three police radios to maintain instead of the one he formerly maintained.

Councilman Powell moved that the Council agree on this stipulated fee for equipment maintenance, effective as of March 1, 1947. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Mayfair Creamery, 1336 Post Avenue, offering a bid of \$1225.00 for the City's International Half Ton Truck, which would be used by their company as a milk delivery truck in the event their bid is accepted.

Councilman Powell moved that this offer be rejected. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion.

Mayor Sherfey advised Councilman Powell that the Council has not had ample opportunity to discuss this matter in private.

Councilman Powell withdrew his motion. Councilman Jackson withdrew his second.

Councilman Powell moved that this communication be referred to the Council as a whole for further consideration. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, Secretary of the Planning Commission, requesting the City Council to start legal action immediately to compel the Pacific Waste Products Company to abandon operations at Llewellyn and Guadalupe Avenues, which location they have been using as a salvage yard for approximately six months without City permission, although they have been advised on several occasions to abandon the yard. The scrap material has not been cleaned up and has become more unsightly and more of a fire hazard than ever.

Councilman Powell moved that this communication be referred to the Chief of Police, City Attorney and City Engineer for compliance with the recommendations of the Planning Commission and to take whatever action is deemed advisable. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, with reference to the unsafe condition of the central fire station, which was seriously damaged in the 1941 earthquake and which has not been repaired since that time, although the fire fighting equipment and personnel have been allowed to remain since a few weeks after the earthquake. He stated that, in accordance with the City Building Code, Sections 202 and 203, he is taking steps to declare the building as a hazard to safety and health; condemning it for further use until properly repaired, rehabilitated or demolished; and providing and maintaining clearance around the building to insure against damage from falling walls.

Engineer Jain advised the Council that the fire siren apparatus will be removed and placed in a location for use by the firemen, who will probably be located in a temporary building behind the City Hall.

Councilman Powell moved that the Council concur in the recommendations as set forth in Mr. Jain's letter. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES:

COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Henry M. Layne, Structural Engineer, 610 West Fourth Street, Los Angeles, stating that he had examined the central fire station building on February 24, 1947, and found it to be poorly constructed, unsafe and unfit for occupancy in the event of an earthquake or major explosion, due to unsound structural elements, and due to serious damage from the earthquake in 1941. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, Secretary of the Planning Commission, advising that the Petition for Variance, Case No. 69, of R. Rufus Page and James and Minnie Terry for extension of the present Trailer Court upon Lots 3, 4 and the north 30 feet of 5, Block 107, Torrance Tract, has been considered and denied. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, Secretary of the Planning Commission, requesting that the Petition from Sam Goldfaden and E. L. Voltz, for vacation of Bow Avenue, between Torrance Boulevard and 212th Street be referred by the Council to the Planning Commission for public hearing.

Councilman Tolson moved that this Petition for street vacation be referred to the Planning Commission for public hearing. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Otto B. Willett, City Attorney, with reference to the Merger of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, and Southern California Telephone Company, which was due for hearing before the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California on February 21, 1947. He informed the Council, in his letter, that the Company has an application before the Railroad Commission for authority to increase its rates.

Attorney Willett orally stated that, in a communication just received from the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, the application for increase in rates was set forth, showing an increase of approximately 50 per cent in some cases. He offered to show the letter to anyone interested in examining it. Matter of record.

A Resolution, submitted by the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors was read, recommending that all of incorporated Torrance be served by the Torrance Post Office, rather than having various sections served by three other Post Offices, to wit: Redondo Beach, Lomita and Gardena. The Resolution suggested that the Third Assistant Postmaster General be asked to alter the United States postal service to cover the entire city, and that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Cecil R. King Representative of the 17th Congressional District of California for his assistance and action.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the recommendations of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. George Thatcher of Waleria advised the Council that his district is served partially by the Lomita and partially by the Redondo Post Offices.

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Commander Mason of Waleria asked the Council to defer action on this matter until the people of Waleria and Hollywood Riviera have had an opportunity to study the problem, as it may be of great inconvenience to the residents of that section to have their mail handled through the Torrance Post Office.

Councilman Gilbert withdrew his motion to concur in the recommendations of the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the matter be held over until the next regular meeting, in order to give the people of Waleria and Hollywood Riviera two weeks' time to study the problem. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A Resolution was read from the Chamber of Commerce, Aviation Commission, advising that it approves the headquartering of the 578th Engineers Combat Battalion, California National Guard, on a suitable site of not more than five acres of the Lomita Flight Strip, when such acreage comes under the control of the City of Torrance, providing that such use will not interfere with the operation and plans for development of the airport and further providing that the 578th Engineers Combat Battalion will vacate said site upon reasonable notice by the Aviation Commission and/or the City Council of the City of Torrance.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Council concur in the recommendations of the Aviation Commission. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Chamber of Commerce, Retail Merchants Division, advising of their disfavor of the plan of the Police Department to restrict left hand turns by automobile traffic in our central retail district, due to the fact that it would place an unnecessary restriction on traffic and thus affect retail sales.

Councilman Gilbert moved that this communication be referred to the Council as a whole for further study. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from W. C. Bradford, Secretary of the Civil Service Board, advising that Mr. Leslie L. Slaughter, a mechanic in the Bus Garage, has been granted a sixty day leave of absence, without pay, commencing January 27, 1947, in order to take his wife to Plainview, Texas, for medical attention. Matter of record.

A communication was read from W. C. Bradford, Secretary of the Civil Service Board, recommending approval and adoption of reclassifications in the Water Department as follows:

Water Department Manager
Field Foreman
Senior Maintenance Man
Junior Maintenance Man
Laborer
Bookkeeper-Cashier-Stenographer

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the recommendation of the Civil Service Board. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Otto B. Willett, City Attorney, with reference to the revised Agreement between the American Legion and the City of Torrance regarding the Legion's concession at the Torrance City Park. He suggested that the revised copies of the Agreement be sent to the American Legion for their approval and execution and that the City execute them upon their return.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Clerk be authorized to refer the proposed Agreements to the American Legion for execution. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

An application for Pipe Line Franchise was read from the Standard Gas Company.

Councilman Powell moved that this request for a franchise be referred to the City Attorney and the City Engineer for study and

recommendation to the Council. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Chief of Police, John H. Stroh, advising that the intersection at Crenshaw and Torrance Boulevards has become a hazardous one, due to the increased traffic and construction work on Crenshaw; and also the fact that the school crossing guard is stationed on Torrance Boulevard at this intersection. He recommended that Torrance Boulevard be made a stop street, thus making this corner a four-way stop. He also recommended that a resolution be drawn up by the City Attorney to provide for NO LEFT TURNS in the business district.

Councilman Powell moved that Chief Stroh's recommendation for the purchase of two stop signs on Torrance Boulevard be concurred in and that the matter of NO LEFT TURN signs in the business district be referred to the Council as a whole for further study, along with the communication from the Chamber of Commerce. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that the Council authorize the installation of a fire hydrant at the southwest corner of 213th Street and Bow Avenue. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that the Council authorize the installation of a fire hydrant at the corner of Madrid Avenue and the alley on the east side, between Torrance Boulevard and Eldorado. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that the Council authorize the installation of a fire hydrant on the southwest corner of Santa Fe and Cherry Avenue. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Jackson moved that the Council appropriate not to exceed \$125.00 for the purchase of four inch (4") vitrified clay sewer pipe, with fittings, for stock, to be used in making sewer connections. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Jackson moved that the Council appropriate the payment of \$234.14, including tax, to the American Bitumuls Company to cover the purchase of 2986 gallons of bitumuls for use by the Street Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Jackson moved that the Council authorize the installation of 4000-Lumen street lights by the Edison Company at the following locations:

- (1) Fern Avenue and Eldorado Street
(adjacent to the Fern Avenue School)
- (2) Hickory Avenue and Eldorado Street
- (3) Date Avenue and Eldorado Street

The charge for each lamp is approximately \$3.50 per month. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson

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and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Jackson moved that the Council authorize the installation of a Sodium-Vapor type street light by the Edison Company at the intersection of Sepulveda Boulevard and Crenshaw Boulevard, and also at Sepulveda Boulevard and Madrona Avenue; the monthly charge for electricity to be approximately \$5.00 for each light. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$203.79 be made to Mr. A. R. Walker for architectural services in connection with the proposed new central fire station, etc. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Tolson moved that Mr. Joe Webb, who successfully passed the promotional examination for the position, be appointed "City Electrician". Mr. Webb has held the position of Acting City Electrician for approximately one year, since the resignation of Mr. Butterfield. Mr. Tolson also moved that the Civil Service Board be notified of Mr. Webb's appointment. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$102.10, plus tax, be made for five tons of Nitrohumus fertilizer for the Park Department. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that an appropriation of \$6,000 be made for payment in settlement of condemnation suit against Fern Avenue Park. Councilman Tolson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$290.00 be made for the purchase of plumbing fixtures to be installed in the toilets at Fern Avenue and Walteria Parks. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Gilbert moved that an appropriation of \$130.00, plus tax, be made for six inch (6") vitrified clay sewer pipe; 175 feet for the Recreation Department, and 38 feet for stock. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor Sherfey moved that an appropriation of \$134.93 be made to the Chamber of Commerce for promotional expenses for December, 1946 and January, 1947. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, reported that study has been given to the improvement of several City lots for parking purposes and that he would submit a written report at the next regular meeting. He stated that the approximate cost for grading and oiling the lots would be 9¢ per square foot; and the approximate cost for grading and paving with asphaltic concrete would be 24¢ per square foot. However, he advised against treating the lots with oil, as the equipment would be too cumbersome to use in such small areas. The total esti-

mated amount for grading an average 50' lot and paving it with asphaltic concrete would be \$750.00. Mayor Sherfey asked Mr. Jain to have his report ready at the next regular meeting.

City Engineer Jain told the Council that his department is willing to remove the excess dirt from the alley adjacent to the Construction Materials Company warehouse at a time when the soil can be transferred to another spot and put to use. He stated that the need for such soil will no doubt arise in the near future, at which time the job will be taken care of.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. Jain be authorized to notify Mr. C. P. Olson, Manager, that the above work is on schedule for the near future. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the request of Mary Merino for City License to practice Phrenology in the 1600 block on Cabrillo Avenue be held over for continued study by the Council until the next regular meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Clifton A. Hix, 1008 South Pacific Avenue, San Pedro, advised the Council that he took out an application for a permit to operate the Yellow Cab Company about two weeks ago, and requested the Council to take action on it so that he would be within his legal rights to operate.

Chief Stroh stated that he saw the application in the City Clerk's Office some time ago and okayed it. However, the application was incomplete and was returned for additional information, which is the reason for the delay in bringing it before the Council. The Council agreed that they would pass on it when it is presented to them and that in the meantime, Mr. Hix would be allowed to operate his taxi service with Council permission.

Mr. Daniel Frohman, former taxicab driver, told the Council that he would like to obtain a three months' temporary license to operate a taxi so that he could earn enough money to pay off his debts and move to another community. He was denied the privilege of driving a taxi some time ago when he violated the City Taxi Ordinance by bookmaking.

Chief Stroh reported that, in his opinion, Mr. Frohman should not be allowed a permit of any kind, regardless of the reason, unless the ordinance is amended.

Attorney Willett advised the Council that it would be possible for them to grant the permit if they so desired, and that an amendment of the taxi ordinance would not be necessary, due to the fact that the ordinance states that a matter of this kind is within the reasonable discretion of the traffic authority. Therefore, the Council could either act upon the judgment of the Chief of Police if they agree with him, or they could overrule his decision and ~~grant his decision and~~ grant the permit.

Councilman Powell moved that this matter be referred to the Council as a whole and the Chief of Police for further study and to give a report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Edward Saul of North Torrance, asked the Council what provision, if any, is being made for a fire station in his community at the bond election to be held March 18, 1947.

Councilman Tolson advised Mr. Saul that the Council, together with the Chamber of Commerce, is agreeable to allowing a portion of the \$20,000 set up in the coming bond election for use for a site in North Torrance, due to the fact that a City-owned lot will be used for the central fire station. He stated that, although the North Torrance station will not be voted upon at the coming election, an election will be held using all precincts for a fire station in North Torrance when the new water district in that area is completed.

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Councilman Tolson moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Jackson, Powell, Tolson and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 9:30 p.m., upon motion by Councilman Powell, seconded by Councilman Jackson, the meeting adjourned.


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE